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## U.S. aids Honduras in military exercise

By George de Lama

Chicago Tribune

**TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras**—Backed by U. S. Navy vessels and more than 1,200 American troops, Honduras began the largest military exercises in its history Tuesday near the troubled Nicaraguan border.

The six-day exercises pit 4,000 Honduran troops supported by American air and sea transports against an imaginary 4,000-man invading force, originally named a "Red Army," attacking from the south.

The joint maneuvers began Tuesday, designated D-Day, when the USS Stiegel Grove landed a Honduran battalion at Puerto Lempira on the remote southeast Atlantic coast.

The Honduran battalion was sent to simulate the reinforcement of another garrison that was surrounded and cut off by a mock enemy force called "Corinto."

**THE EXERCISES**, called "Ahuas Taras" ["Big Pine" in the Miskito Indian language], comes at a time of high tension along the border with Nicaragua, populated by Miskitos on both sides. Right-wing armed Nicaraguan exiles have used the Honduran side as a staging area to conduct raids across the border against the leftist Sandinista government.

The Sandinistas have denounced the maneuvers as a "provocation" and have expressed fears the war games could erupt into real armed conflict.

U.S. and Honduran officials counter that the exercises are part of a series of annual joint maneuvers that began in 1965. Sandinista observers were invited to the maneuvers but refused to attend.

The exercises will come no closer than 10 miles from the Nicaraguan border, according to Honduran Army Maj. Bustillo Murcia. He said Misquitia, as sparsely populated eastern Honduras is called, was picked for the maneuvers because of its remoteness and flat terrain.

**"THE EXERCISES** are totally defensive and are not meant to disturb any concerned country," said Amilca Santa Maria, a spokesman for Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova. "We invited observers from all other Central American countries, and this proves we have nothing to hide."

Bustillo Murcia said Honduran A-37 jet fighter bombers and Super



Mystere fighters will conduct live-fire exercises in an area well away from the Nicaraguan border to avoid rounds falling inadvertently into Nicaraguan territory.

The maneuvers are designed to improve Honduran airlift and sealift capability, develop logistical support and practice defensive posture in case of an enemy invasion, he said.

American C-130 airlifts of troops and equipment began Jan. 23, according to U.S. Army Maj. Arthur Torres. American forces include 450 Army troops, 520 Navy men and more than 175 communications and planning personnel.

**THE WAR GAMES** also involve a variety of U.S. transport aircraft and helicopters, none of which are armed, Torres said.

The exercises will cost the U.S. \$5.5 million, U.S. officials here said. The number of U.S. forces involved could reach 1,600 before the maneuvers are over.

Many of the U.S. troops involved come from the U.S. Army's Southern Command in Panama, although two of the Navy vessels are based in Norfolk, Va.

A "civic action" program involving U.S. Army doctors and dentists will assist the impoverished Miskito Indians in the region.

The war games will also center on a Honduran military base at Mocerón, adjacent to a United Nations refugee camp that houses 8,000 Mesquitos who fled Sandinista rule in Nicaragua.

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## U.S. exercise stirs North Korean alert

From Chicago Tribune wires

**TOKYO**—North Korea put its army on battle-ready status in response to large-scale U.S.-South Korean maneuvers south of the 38th Parallel, despite the assurance of Secretary of State George Shultz that the U.S. will "start no wars."

In a dispatch monitored in Tokyo, North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said President Kim Il-sun early Tuesday ordered all army and militia forces "to enter into a semiwar state from Feb. 1 to mid-April, the period of the enemy's joint military exercise."

The dispatch said the operation, called Team Spirit '83, is "an escalation of their criminal war moves against our republic and an open military provocation harassing peace in Korea and leading the situation in our country to the brink of war."

North Korea watchers in Tokyo said they could not recall such an alert during previous U.S.-South Korean exercises. A similar alert was proclaimed, and later canceled, during a period of tension that followed the axe murder of two U.S. Army officers by North Korean soldiers in August, 1976.

**SOUTH KOREA AND THE U.S.**—backed United Nations Command in Seoul have defended the annual Team Spirit maneuvers, which involve about 188,000 troops, as defensive exercises allowed by the Korean Armistice Agreement, which ended the 3-year war in 1953.

"The United States and its allies will start no wars," Shultz said at a press conference in response to a question about the Korean alert.

Shultz, on an official visit for economic and other discussions with Japanese leaders, also called Japan's defense buildup necessary to protect shipping lanes in the Pacific.

The Reagan administration has applauded Japanese plans to increase defense spending by 6.5 percent but says this is not sufficient to make needed progress towards filling Japan's defense role. Shultz repeated this message Tuesday.

Shultz met earlier Tuesday with Japanese Finance Minister Noboru Takeshita to discuss economic affairs, including bilateral support for the International Monetary Fund, and to promote trade and ease the global recession, officials said.

**SHULTZ, WHO ARRIVED Sunday** on a four-stop Asian tour, met Monday with Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and Japan's trade and defense ministers. He was scheduled to leave Wednesday for Peking.

Shultz said Tuesday he had been assured that Japan was determined to cut red tape hampering imports into the country.

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## Turkey seeks more military aid

**BONN, West Germany** — Turkish Foreign Minister Ilter Turkmen said yesterday his country's armed forces need a much larger military contribution from the United States and West Germany in order to defend NATO's exposed southeast flank.

He said this is the Western alliance's weakest area, particularly in light of the Iran-Iraq war, recent

events in Lebanon and "general turmoil" in the area. Turkey also has a long frontier with the Warsaw Pact to defend, Turkmen added.